

## REMARKS

### I. Status Of The Claims

Claims 1-3 are pending in this application. By the present amendment, claim 1 has been amended and claims 4-6 have been cancelled. It is submitted no new matter has been added.

### II. Drawings

The drawings stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to show the claimed feature: "incoming mail sorting apparatus", "storing a piece count" and "calculating incoming sorting cost information using the piece count". Submitted herewith are replacement sheets for Figs. 2 and 3 to overcome the aforesaid 37 CFR 1.83(a) rejection.

### III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under §112, second paragraph. As mentioned above claims 4-6 have been cancelled, thus this rejection with respect to these claims is now moot.

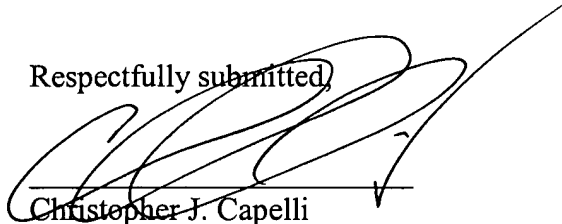
Applicants attorney would like to thank Examiner Nguyen for the courtesies exchanged during a telephonic interview conducted on July 10, 2003. In accordance with the agreement that was reached with respect that interview, independent claim 1 has been amended to overcome the aforesaid 35 USC § 112 rejection.

Therefore it is respectfully submitted that pending claim 1 and depending claims 2 and 3 are now in condition for allowance.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that pending claims 1-3 are now in a condition for allowance and favorable action thereon is requested. If the Examiner should have any questions, he is kindly urged to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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